

# Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

September 7, 2007

## Message from County Executive Walker

*Another week and another story about possible budget reductions... First, it is important to remember that my budget does not come out until September 27. The items in these stories are from budget requests made by departments in June.*

*Second, it is also important to remember that there is still a \$25.7 million gap to make up – even with the reductions proposed in the department requests – to balance the budget.*

*Third, there are still state levy limits in place. So, even if one wanted to increase the levy (I don't), the most it can go up is about \$13.7 million. In other words, \$12 million would still have to be trimmed away before even talking about restoring any of the current reductions.*

*So, why is this? Even though we made progress in controlling the rise of legacy costs, we still see a climb in pension, health care and debt service costs in 2008. I am committed to lowering our legacy costs and balancing the budget without a tax levy increase.*

Scott

*P.S. Anyone who complains about the tax freeze and cuts in the current budget should remember that I vetoed the entire 2007 budget (because it did not fully fund positions that were restored and was not balanced). The budget that was passed for 2007 was put together by the County Board and it included a tax levy increase (further proof that we cannot tax our way out of our problems).*



## Walker at school opening and Forum



County Executive Walker participated in the Grand Opening ceremonies for the Indian Community School at their new facility in Franklin. The new building, designed by Albuquerque architect Antoine Predock, incorporates both a school and community center in 160,000 square feet, and aims to connect urban Indian children with their heritage (photos above). Also this week, Walker was the keynote speaker for the Public Policy Forum Board of Trustees luncheon.

## Senior Olympics



Walker addressed approximately 400 athletes and their families for the Wisconsin Senior Olympics opening ceremonies. It is the 28<sup>th</sup> year for the organization providing athletic events to keep our older adults healthy.

## Party for the Parks!



County Executive Walker invites Milwaukee County residents and visitors to attend the "Party for the Parks" - a 100-year Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, September 29 from 11am to 10pm at Washington Park, 1859 N. 40<sup>th</sup> Street. The family-oriented event will have something for everyone to enjoy: live music at the bandshell, a fishing clinic and boat rides, a Kids' Village with inflatable rides, interactive games and karaoke, and picnic-style meals at affordable prices.

It's a wonderful way for family, friends and coworkers to come together to support our beautiful park system.

**Organizations and companies are invited to make this their company party. Special discounted voucher coupons are available for groups to purchase ahead of time by calling (414) 257-PARK.**

The highlight of the evening will feature a raffle of the Harley-Davidson Softail Classic motorcycle at 8pm. \$5 tickets for the raffle are available at all 40 US Bank locations in Milwaukee County, the parks golf courses, and other locations noted at [www.countyparks.com](http://www.countyparks.com).

## Kite Festival



The 29<sup>th</sup> Time Warner Cable Frank Mot's Int'l Kite Festival at Veterans Park Sept. 8-9 from 10am-5pm will feature precision kite teams, lessons, giant kites, and more. Call Scott Fisher at (414) 305-3145 for information.

## Anniversary Events

This week, County Executive Walker welcomed attendees and presented proclamations for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of Eppstein Uhen Architects, and also for the Islamic Society of Milwaukee that is celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Center.

## Milwaukee Night in DC



County Executive Walker donned a Brewers jersey to address the 16<sup>th</sup> Milwaukee Night in Washington, DC. The event, coordinated by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Association of Commerce (MMAC), highlights the contributions of the Milwaukee community to the strength and vitality of the entire state.

## Family Farm Weekend

Take a trip down to the farm September 8 and 9 at the Milwaukee County Zoo's Northwestern Mutual Family Farm. Sponsored by Golden Guernsey Dairy and the Wisc. Milk Marketing Board, the event includes a tractor pull, hayrides, and farm-related demonstrations. Visit [www.milwaukeezoo.org](http://www.milwaukeezoo.org) for more details.